(b) if so, whether the reasons for rising unemployment has been analysed; and

(c) the measures proposed to control the problem?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) As per the estimates available from the employment and unemployment survey of National Sample Survey Organisation conducted during 1999-2000, the estimated unemployment rate in the country on usual status basis was of the order of 2.23%.

(b) and (c) Major reason for the rising unemployment was that economy did not grow as expected. Government constituted a Special Group headed by Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission to analyse the various aspects of employment unemployment situation prevailing in the country and suggest strategies and programmes for creation of one crore employment opportunities per year during the 10th Plan period. The strategies suggested by the special group include:

* 8% growth with business as usual will contribute around 30 million employment opportunites.
* Special employment generation programmes will yield around 20 million employment opportunities.
* Special emphasis on agriculture, irrigation, agro-forestry, small and medium enterprises, tourism, information, communication technology and other services.

Given the pattern of generation of additional employment opportunities, there will be near full employment situation by 2012.

Benefit to migrant labourers

294. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the migrant labour inside and outside the country are not getting any benefit of labour standard, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what is Government's action-plan to give relief to the migrant labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (d) No Sir, migrant labour inside the country are covered under various provisions of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. This Act provides for regular payment of wages, equal pay for equal work irrespective of sex, displacement allowance, journey allowance, residential accommodation, medical facility etc. to inter-state migrant workmen. In the case of migrant labour going outside the country for employment, the government is regulating the emigration of unskilled and semi-skilled labour under provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 and the Rules made thereunder and their wages are determined in consultation with the concerned Indian Missions abroad. For the Emigrant workers, the Government have already introduced the Emigration Amendment Bill, 2002 in the Lok Sabha on 21.11.2002 with the objective of setting up a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council and also for Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund.

Strikes and lock-outs

295. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the observations made by the Institute for Human Development that "while the incidence of strikes in India had declined over the years, that of lock-outs had considerably increased", and further comments that "the recent Supreme Court judgement was product of the prevailing middle class mood rather than a judicious verdict;

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of creating conditions where lock-outs could be reduced substantially and workers' industrial relations activities are injudiciously curtailed; and

(c) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir a study by the Institute of Human Development (IHD) reveals that during 1991-97 the share of strikes in total mandays lost declined while that of lock-outs increased. However, the Institute has clarified that the observations on the recent Supreme Court Judgement were not that of IHD but of some of the participants in a recent seminar organised by IHD and Indian Society of Labour Economics, on this issue.